Testimony of Maria K. Poirier, M.D. on H.F. 100, Omnibus cannabis bill

January 11, 2023

Rep. Zack Stephenson and members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to H.F. 100, Cannabis bill.

My name is Maria Poirier, and I am a practicing internal medicine physician from Rochester with 30 years of clinical experience and a special interest in treating complex medical patients with chronic pain. Based on my recent review of the medical literature and daily interactions with patients, my professional opinion is that commercializing cannabis poses a serious threat to cannabis users, their families and to public health.

Cannabis has addictive and intoxicating properties and accidental ingestion can cause serious adverse events including death.[[1]](#footnote-1) Since state-legalized cannabis is not regulated by FDA pharmaceutical standards[[2]](#footnote-2), haphazard documentation of manufacturing processes, hygiene practices, production safety, distribution chain tracking, and final package testing may occur. In addition, cannabis manufacturers are not required to perform rigorous pharmacokinetic studies to guide serving size or dosing recommendations.[[3]](#footnote-3) Chemicals used to extract THC from cannabis may create byproducts that are potentially toxic and unknown to the consumer.[[4]](#footnote-4) National institute of Justice researchers have found that ingredient amounts listed on cannabis packaging are often incorrect.[[5]](#footnote-5)

In conclusion, I’m convinced that consuming dog food is safer that using state-legalized cannabis products. The State of Minnesota should not be promoting the addiction-for-profit cannabis industry. No number of regulations in H.F 100 will ensure the safety of cannabis products which should be regulated by FDA pharmaceutical standards. There is no need for the state government to play doctor, pharmacist, and distributor since FDA-regulated pharmaceutical THC has been available by prescription since 1985.

I urge you to oppose H.F. 100 as the health and safety risks associated with commercializing cannabis far outweighs any potential benefits.

Maria K. Poirier MD, FACP Rochester, MN

1. https://www.fda.gov/food/alerts-advisories-safety-information/fda-warns-consumers-about-accidental-ingestion-children-food-products-containing-thc [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.fda.gov/drugs/pharmaceutical-quality-resources/facts-about-current-good-manufacturing-practices-cgmps [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Communication with Chris Tholkes, MCP director [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/5-things-know-about-delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol-delta-8-thc [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/study-reveals-inaccurate-labeling-marijuana-hemp#about-author--0 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)